

West Mohave Plan  
Implementation Task Group (Group 4)  
Organizational Meeting  
November 16, 1999

*Task Group Members Present:*

Hayhurst, Dupoy, Brashear, Waldheim, Connor, Veale, Ferguson, Thomas, Anderson, Kuleza, Landowski, Miller ( for Aberg), Kiriakos, Scott.

**Welcome.** Bill Haigh announced that his team was working on the full-size relief maps requested by the Supergroup. Additional mapping needs would be identified the following week by Task Group 2.

**Agenda Item #1 Identification of Task Group Topics**

Alana Knaster asked group members to suggest topics that the group would need to address in its recommendations back to the Super Group. During the discussion, several members noted that there might be some overlap between the issues assigned to the Implementation Task Group and those assigned to the Regulatory Issues Task Group. Alana indicated that this overlap would be resolved by the Steering Committee based upon reports from each group at the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Task Group developed the following issue list. Topics suggested have been grouped into categories.

**A. Managing Organization**

- Form and governance ( e.g. Joint Power Authority, not-for -profit )
- Tasks and responsibilities
- Staffing
- Communication procedures (members)
- Decision-making process

**B. Plan financing (funding sources for implementation ( in hand and required)**

- Sources of funds ( e.g. grants, donations, assessments, contributions from partners, agency programmatic funds)
- What will be the cost/budget of the plan? ( need to receive input from Task Group 1)
- How will funds be distributed among priorities
- Fees and fines- amounts and types of fees
- Spending and authority

**C. Implementation Strategies ( mitigation and enhancement- other than fees)**

- Land donations and conservation easements
- Land banking/credits for future conservation -What is the value of a credit and what is given in return for credit?
- Land acquisition and management
- Tracking of species “takes”
- Evaluating the feasibility of conservation prescriptions

#### D. Evaluation and Monitoring

- Two aspects to monitoring:
  - Are parties doing what they said they would do?; enforcement actions; assurances
  - Is the plan effective
- Adaptive management- definition and approaches
- Role of scientific and/or peer panels ( use of information)
- Data collection and management- ongoing analysis, what data, who maintains databases
- Database information availability to the public
- Fees for database information
- What is defined as “success”
- What happens after “recovery”

#### E. Ratification and Ongoing Role of Members

- Mechanisms (e.g. Desert Plan Amendment, local ordinances)
- Initial Buy-in/adoption procedures (Opt In and Opt Out)
- WEMO amendment procedure

#### F. Amendments to Mohave Plan

#### G. Exemptions

- Any? None?
- Implications of exemptions- pluses and minuses

#### H. Public Role/Communication with the Public

- Interface with other plans and conservation efforts
- Protocol for ongoing public involvement
- Education approaches/programs

#### I. Implementing Laws, Directives, Ordinances

The Task Group will review the list of topics. Additions, deletions and/or merging of topics will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **Agenda Item #2 Initial Topics for Discussion**

The Task Group decided that the first topic to be discussed would be the managing organization. To prepare for the discussion, the following background materials were requested:

√ Information on how other comparable plans have been managed : organization charts; scope and activities of implementing authority; funding; budget, legal; mechanisms for funding and operation e.g. San Diego, Coachella Valley, Washington County, Utah, Platte River

√ Information on private non-for-profit land conservancies and trusts

√ Information on how organizations with land management responsibilities in the West Mohave Region spend their money now ( BLM, County Parks, Flood Control. DOD)

Bill Haigh will research background materials on other plans. Randy Scott will provide information on San Bernardino County; Bill will contact other member jurisdictions to request information.

## **Agenda Item #3 Selection of Task Group Coordinator**

Lowell Landowski was selected as the contact person/coordinator to report Task Group 4 activities at the upcoming Steering Committee meeting and to coordinate with the facilitation Team on procedural issues. It was suggested that this responsibility could rotate among members in the future.

## **Agenda Item #4 Other Issues; Schedule**

Participation: Several members stressed the importance of having the military bases represented at the table, rather than only as observers. It would also be important to have more of the cities and counties present and the utilities. Bill Haigh noted that other members had signed up to participate, but were unable to attend the first session. He will follow up as appropriate.

Alana Knaster asked the group if they believed an April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2000 target date was realistic for completing their tasks and reporting to the Supergroup. Members said that it would depend on getting information for the group's tasks and obtaining input from the other Task Groups. However, they indicated that the April 3<sup>rd</sup> remained an acceptable target for now.

The Group agreed that they would meet once in December and then twice monthly beginning in January.

**The next task group meeting was set for Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.** The meeting will be held in Riverside, specific location to be determined.